

Message Text

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61

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 AID-20 IO-12 DPW-01 OMB-01

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 RSR-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /139 W

----- 091555

O R 021110 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3906

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL JEC PARIS

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF

USDAO SAIGON

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC HAWAII

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECREP NKP

CHSPECATS BANGKOK

7 ACCS KORAT

354 TFW KORAT RTAFB

56 SOW NKP

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432 TRW UDORN
CDR JCRC NKP
8 TFW UBON
ARMA/ AIRA VTN LAOS
ARMA/ AIRA SVKT LAOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3343

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - P A R A T W O S U B P A R A " D "

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT - MAY 2

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; 13 AF ADVON, 432 TRW, 56 SOW, 354 TFW AND
8 TFW FOR DO/ DI; MACTHAI FOR J2 AND PAO

REF: VIENTIANE 3316

BEGIN SUMMARY: MILITARY - GROUND ACTION CONTINUED LOW DURING PERIOD
30 APRIL - 1 MAY, WITH ONLY FOUR MINOR INCIDENTS REPORTED. RLAF
FLEW ONE AC-47 GUNSHIP AND ELEVEN T-28 SORTIES. ONE PATHET LAO
SOLDIER RALLIED IN MR V. POLITICAL - DESPITE RECENT RETURN OF PHOUMI
TO VIENTIANE, HE HAS YET TO DEMONSTRATE ANY NEW FLEXIBILITY. NEW
LPF DRAFT PROTOCOL, WHICH PHOUMI BROUGHT FROM SAM NEUA,
REPORTEDLY
CONTAINS NOTHING RADICALLY NEW. WE REMAIN ENCOURAGED BY FACT THAT
TALKS HAVE BEEN UPGRADED TO PHENG- PHOUMI LEVEL AND THAT THEY NOW
WILL MEET DAILY. END SUMMARY.

1. SECTION I - CEASEFIRE OBSERVANCE

A. MR I: ONLY GROUND ACTION IN REGION WAS EXCHANGE OF FIRE BETWEEN
PATROLS WEST OF LUANG PRABANG ON 29 APRIL (NO CASUALTIES). RLAF
FLEW 3 T-28 SORTIES 1 MAY, ALL AGAINST ENEMY TROOPS NORTHWEST OF
XIENG LOM IN FAR NORTHWEST, WITH NO VISIBLE RESULTS. REPORTS
HAVE BEEN RECEIVED DESCRIBING SEVERAL RECENT INSTANCES OF FRATER-
NIZATION BETWEEN LOCAL PL AND FAR TROOPS NORTH AND NORTHEAST OF
LUANG PRABANG.

B. MR II: NO GROUND OR AIR ACTION REPORTED.

C. MR III: ONLY ACTION IN REGION WAS MINOR CLASH SOUTHEAST OF
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THAKHEK ON 1 MAY (NO CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW 8 T-28 SORTIES ON
1 MAY AND ONE AC-47 GUNSHIP SORTIE PREVIOUS NIGHT, ALL IN SUPPORT
OF FOREGOING ACTION, WITH NO VISIBLE RESULTS.

D. MR IV: THERE WERE TWO MINOR CLASHES NORTHEAST AND SOUTH OF
KHONG SEDONE ON 30 APRIL AND 1 MAY (ONE FRIEND WIA). RLAF FLEW NO

SORTIES.

E. MR V: NO GROUND OR AIR ACTION REPORTED. ONE PL SOLDIER RALLIED VACINITY SALA PHOU KHOUN ON 1 MAY.

2. SECTION II - POLITICAL SITUATION

A. XAT LAO, 1 MAY, REPORTED THAT IN FINAL MEETING WITH NGON SANANIKONE APRIL 27, LPF DEL CHAIRMAN PHOUN SIPRASEUTH AGAIN DEMANDED LPF HOLD POSITIONS OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND INTERIOR MINISTER. MOREOVER, LPF OPPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF SEPARATE MINISTRIES OF PLAN AND ECONOMY, AS WELL AS INTEGRATION OF MINISTRY OF CULTS INTO EDUCATION MINISTRY, PREFERRING THAT FORMER BE TRANSFORMED INTO CULTURAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY.

B. ON MILITARY SIDE, XAT LAO SAYS LPF, AS OF APRIL 27, DID NOT WISH TO RECOGNIZE RLG- CONTROLLED ZONES BEHIND THEIR LINES (WITH EXCEPTION OF BOUAM LONG), BUT WANTS THE RLG TO RECOGNIZE LPF ZONES IN RLG AREAS, EVEN THOSE FRONTS THEY CLAIM ALONG MEKONG. LPF ALSO REQUESTED JOINT TROOP PRESENCE IN " NEUTRALIZED" CITIES OF LUANG PRABANG AND VIENTIANE, INCLUDING FIVE LPF BATTALIONS IN AND AROUND VIENTIANE. RLG OPPOSED, PREFERRING A POLICE FORCE COMPOSED OF LPF AND RLG ELEMENTS.

C. SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN VIENTIANE, LPF PLENIPOTENTIARY PHOUMI VONGVICHIT HAS MET TWICE WITH PHENG PHONGSAVAN TO DISCUSS NEW LPF DRAFT PROTOCOL WHICH PHOUMI BROUGHT WITH HIM FROM SAM NEUA. PHENG TOLD CHARGE THAT NEW DRAFT PROTOCOL DOES NOT DIFFER MEASURABLY FROM PREVIOUS LPF DOCUMENT AND STILL CONTAINS MANY FUNDAMENTAL DEMANDS UNACCEPTABLE TO RLG. PHOUMI SO FAR HAS NOT DEMONSTRATED ANY NEW FLEXIBILITY ALTHOUGH UPGRADING OF LAO TALKS TO PHENG/ PHOUMI LEVEL IS ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT. ALTHOUGH PHENG AND PHOUMI WILL MEET EVERY DAY FROM NOW ON, PHENG ESTIMATES THAT SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS WILL BE SLOW UNLESS THERE IS MOVEMENT TOWARD NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN CAMBODIA AND IMPLEMENTATION OF VIETNAM AGREEMENT.

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D. REPORTING PHENG- PHOUMI MEETING, RADIO PATHET LAO COMMENTED: " THEY PARTICULARLY DISCUSSED WAYS TO REACH A SIGNING OF THE SUBAGREEMENT TO THE SIGNED AGREEMENT AND TO MOVE TOWARD THE FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL PROVISIONAL COALITION GOVERNMENT AND THE NATIONAL POLITICAL COALITION COUNCIL. THEY ALSO DISCUSSED WAYS TO RESPECT THE CEASEFIRE AND TO STRICTLY IMPLEMENT IT. THE SECOND MEETING LASTED FOR ONE HOUR AND 40 MINUTES." DEAN

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